Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Thousands of brave Americans from South Dakota have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving the armed forces of the United States of America in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world; and,

Whereas, A great number of these Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have left families with children behind; and,

Whereas, Hundreds of South Dakota's children have at least one parent currently serving active military duty; and,

Whereas, These children are a source of pride and honor to us all, and it is only fitting that we take time to recognize their contributions, celebrate their spirit, and let our men and women in uniform know that, while they are taking care of us, we are taking care of their children; and,

Whereas, The recognition of a Month of the Military Child will allow us to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, their struggles, and their unconditional support of our troops – because when parents serve in the military, their children serve, too; and,

Whereas, A month-long salute to military children will encourage support for Operation Military Kids and other organizations established to provide local support to military children and families:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2009 as

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens, business, and government leaders to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and thank military children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State